AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the use of a resource by at least one process in a data processing system having an inter-process communication mechanism provided with storage facilities that do not rely on the functioning of processes that use the inter-process communication mechanism, comprising the steps of:

providing a licence controller;

communicating, at an allowed work unit rate for the resource, between the at least one process and the licence controller by storing at least one parameter in the storage facilities provided by the inter-process communication; and, in the at least one process,

controlling the use of the resource by the process according to the parameter, wherein the step of communicating comprises having the licence controller update an inter-process communication of a process according to the use of the resource allowed for the process, and wherein the process provides periodic updates of the actual use of the resource by the process which are stored by the inter-process communication, and wherein, when the actual use of the resource by the process exceeds the use of the resource allowed for the process, either or both of the process and the licence controller is capable of restraining the process from using the resource over the amount allowed for the process.

2.   (Canceled).

3.   (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, wherein the step of communicating comprises having a process read from its inter-process communication the parameter.

4.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of communicating comprises having the licence controller read from the inter-process communication of a process the actual use of the resource by the process.

5.   (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of controlling comprises, for the process, adapting its operation to the allowed work unit rate for the process.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~as claimed in claim 1~~ for controlling the use of a resource by at least one process in a data processing system having an inter-process communication mechanism provided with storage facilities that do not rely on the functioning of processes that use the inter-process communication mechanism, comprising the steps of:

    providing a licence controller;

    communicating, at an allowed work unit rate for the resource, between the at least one process and the licence controller by storing at least one parameter in the storage facilities provided by the inter-process communication; and, in the at least one process,

        controlling the use of the resource by the process according to the parameter,

wherein the processes comprise a plurality of identical processes, and wherein the step of communicating comprises having the licence controller update the inter-process communication of said identical processes while sharing use of the resource between said identical processes, and

said method further comprising:

    monitoring a use amount of the resource by each of said identical processes to determine if any of said identical processes are using the resource at a rate below a predetermined amount; and

    if the monitoring is such that at least one of said identical processes is using the resource at a rate below the predetermined amount, updating the inter-process communication such that the at least one of said identical processes are provided with no allocation of the resource and the resource is divided among the other ones of said identical processes that are using the resource at a rate at or above the predetermined amount.

7.   (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the processing system is a multiprocessing system.

8.   (Currently Amended) A processing system comprising:

3

-      a resource and at least one process using the resource;
-      a license controller;
-      an inter-process communication between the license controller and each process provided with storage facilities that do not rely on the functioning of processes that use the inter-process communication,

     wherein an inter-process communication contains information representative of the allowed use of the resources by its process,

     <u>wherein the licence controller updates an inter-process communication of a process according to the use of the resource allowed for the process, and wherein the process provides periodic updates of the actual use of the resource by the process which are stored by the inter-process communication, and wherein, when the actual use of the resource by the process exceeds the use of the resource allowed for the process, either or both of the process and the licence controller is capable of restraining the process from using the resource over the amount allowed for the process</u>.

9. (Previously presented) A processing system as claimed in claim 8 wherein the license controller comprises program elements for communicating an allowed work unit rate for the resource between the at least one process and the licence controller by storing at least one parameters in the storage facilities provided by the inter-process communication; and the process comprises program elements for controlling the use of the resource by the process according to the parameter.

10. (Previously presented) A processing system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the licence controller is arranged to update the inter-process communication of a process according to the use of the resource allowed for the process.

11. (Previously presented) A processing system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the process is arranged to read the parameter from its inter-process communication.

12. (Currently Amended) A processing system ~~as claimed in claim 10~~ <u>comprising:</u>
     <u>a resource and at least one process using the resource;</u>
     <u>a license controller;</u>

4

an inter-process communication between the license controller and each process provided with storage facilities that do not rely on the functioning of processes that use the inter-process communication,

wherein an inter-process communication contains information representative of the allowed use of the resources by its process,

wherein the license controller comprises program elements for communicating an allowed work unit rate for the resource between the at least one process and the licence controller by storing at least one parameters in the storage facilities provided by the inter-process communication; and the process comprises program elements for controlling the use of the resource by the process according to the parameter,

wherein the licence controller is arranged to update the inter-process communication of a process according to the use of the resource allowed for the process,

wherein the licence controller is arranged to update the inter-process communication of a plurality of identical processes to enable sharing use of the resource between said identical processes, and

wherein a use amount of the resource by each of said identical processes is monitored by said licence controller to determine if any of said identical processes are using the resource at a rate below a predetermined amount; and

if said licence controller determines that at least one of said identical processes is using the resource at a rate below the predetermined amount, updating the inter-process communication such that the at least one of said identical processes are provided with no allocation of the resource and the resource is divided among the other ones of said identical processes that are using the resource at a rate at or above the predetermined amount.

13. (Previously presented) A processing system as claimed in claim 9 wherein the processing system is a multiprocessing system.

5